



Activity 3.8

Reading / Writing

Copy this table into your writing book and fill the blanks.

Object	Material used	Uses
eg: Tallipot umbrella Masks Pots Brass Jewellery Mats	palmyrah leaves	as an umbrella



Activity 3.9 Pair work

Vocabulary

Match the words in column A with the phrases in column B that give the meaning. Write in your writing book.

A

B

handicrafts	- go out of sight
heritage	- coverings for the face
masks	- bright yellow metal
brass	- crafts needing skill of hand.
leather	- animal skin used for making shoes, purses etc.
craftsman	- that has been inherited
disappear	- skilled workman who practises a craft

Reading

This presentation on Gems was made to the class by Mihiri.

Gems



Sri Lanka has been famous for gemstones from the earliest times. It is an important export trade today. Many areas in the Sabaragamuwa province are well known for gems. Ratnapura is the most important region for gems. Ratnapura means the “City of Gems”. It has gem museums displaying the wide range of gems available in the country.

The blue Sapphire is the king of Sri Lankan gems. The 400 carat blue sapphire called the “Blue Bell” which adorns the British crown is from Sri Lanka. Rubies, cat’s eyes, alexandrites, aquamarines, tourmalines, spinals, topazes, garnets and amethysts are some of the precious stones found in Sri Lanka.

The cutting of gems is a specialized job. Gems are cut and polished before they are set. Different regions in the country have different ways of making jewellery. Gems are generally worn for their beauty. People also believe that gems have the power to bring luck.

The craft was handed down from father to son. Now women too work in the gem trade.



Activity 3.10

Writing

01. What is the meaning of Ratnapura ?
02. Which stone is called “the king of Sri Lankan gems” ?
03. Write 5 kinds of gems found in Sri Lanka.
04. What is the “Blue Bell” ?
05. Why do people wear gems ?



Activity 3.11

Reading / Speaking

Read the following statements aloud. Ask the others to say whether they are true or false.

01. Gems are found only in Ratnapura.
02. Sri Lanka has become famous for gemstones very recently.
03. Anyone can cut gems.
04. No gems are sold outside the country.
05. The gems shown in the museum are very old.
06. Gems are worn only for beauty.
07. Gems can be worn as soon as they are found.
08. You can recognise the region by the design of the Jewellery.
09. Only men work in the gem business.

Reading

Lahiru wrote on farming for his project

Farming in Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka has been an agricultural country from ancient times. Sri Lankan Farmers grow paddy and other grains such as kurakkan, green gram, corn etc. Paddy is the most commonly grown grain in our country. Rice is our staple food.

There were no machines or chemical fertilizers in the past. The farmers helped each other. This was called *athtam* or ‘giving a hand’. The paddy field was ploughed with the help of buffaloes. Buffalo driven ploughs are seen even today in rural areas.

Harvesting paddy was an important event in the village. In the past even the kings participated in the ploughing ceremony called *Vap magula*. In ancient times, reaping paddy was an interesting activity in the village because the reapers recited “*goyam kavi*.” Most people are still familiar with this tradition because now it is presented as a dance form on stage.

The threshing floor is the place where the reaped crops were gathered. Buffaloes were used to thresh the paddy; both men and women joined in to winnow the paddy.

The paddy had to be stored until the next harvesting season. The harvested paddy was kept in a “*vee bissa*”. The *Vee Bissa* is an indigenous storage bin. It was made using clay, straw, cane strips and bamboo. It is a fine creation of our forefathers.

Farmers got water from the village tank for cultivation. They began to study ways of bringing water from the rivers into the tanks. For this purpose they built a network of canals. One main canal ran into many other smaller canals. The ancient kings built great tanks to feed the canals. *Parakrama Samudraya* and *Kala Weva* are some of them. The kings gave their fullest support for the farmers to grow the nation’s staple food, rice.

The Jaffna farmer devised a system of getting water from deep wells called “*Andiya Linda*” / “*Andiya kinaru*”. It has a lever with a weight at one end and a bucket at the other end. This helps to get the water from deep wells without much effort.



Nowadays farmers use tractors to plough the paddy fields and also to thresh the paddy. In ancient times people used indigeneous methods for killing parasites that harmed the crops. Later chemical pesticides began to be used. Pesticides kill parasites. They are harmful to our health too. Now many people prefer organic food grown by natural methods.



Activity 3.12

Reading

Copy the activity on to your writing book and fill in the spaces with appropriate adjectives from the passage.

Adjectives are words that describe nouns or give extra information about nouns.

01. Rice is our food.
02. *Goyam Kavi* can be heard in areas.
03. In times reaping paddy was an interesting activity.
04. *Vee Bissa* is an storage bin
05. Farmers are encouraged to use fertilizer.
06. Buffalo-driven ploughs are very even today.
07. Harvesting paddy was an event in the village.
08. Scientists have now realized the effects of chemical pesticides.



Activity 3.13 Comprehension

Writing

- 1) What is the most commonly grown grain in the country ?
- 2) How were the paddy fields ploughed ?
- 3) Who participated in the “*Vap magula* ?”
- 4) Where did the farmers keep the reaped crops ?
- 5) Name the materials that farmers used to make “*Vee Bissa.*”
- 6) What are the different methods that farmers used in the past?
- 7) Why does the lever of an Andiya Linda have a weight at one end ?
- 8) What is the disadvantage in using pesticides ?
- 9) How can you prove
 - (i) that the kings of ancient times took an interest in paddy cultivation ?
 - (ii) that women participated actively in paddy cultivation ?



Activity 3.14

Grammar - Inverted Comma

The inverted comma is a punctuation mark we use in writing to show direct speech or significance or meaning. It is usually written or printed as (“ ”). Look at the following.

- Teacher “Have you decided what to do?”
- Ratnapura means, “the city of gems.”
- The blue sapphire is called the “Blue Bell.”

Read the lessons “Gems” and “Farming in Sri Lanka”

Find quotations and write in your writing book the complete sentences with the questions.



Activity 3.15 Group work

Word Search

- (a) Some words you learned in this unit can be found in the following word square. Find the words and write them in your writing book.

B	W	O	O	D	W	O	R	K	F	M
H	H	K	I	A	O	R	I	A	A	E
G	E	M	S	N	T	N	T	Z	R	T
T	R	Z	U	C	O	A	U	T	M	A
K	I	R	L	E	P	M	A	O	I	L
I	T	E	M	R	I	E	L	A	N	Z
P	A	S	T	Y	C	N	I	K	G	X
O	G	C	R	A	F	T	A	N	K	S
T	E	B	R	A	S	S	W	O	R	K

- (b) (i) Prepare a word square and present it to the class.
- (ii) Get the 'word squares' prepared by the other groups and find the words and write them in your writing book.

*Ganegoda, Warakapola,
Sri Lanka,
22nd March 2007.*

Dear Teesha,

Thank you for your letter. You had wanted to know about the legends of our ancient kings. So I'll tell you some legends of one of the great kings of Sri Lanka. He is king Pandukhabaya who ruled the country during the Anuradhapura period.

King Pandukhabaya got his name from his uncle, Abhaya and his teacher, Pandu. The first wewa of Sri Lanka, the Abaya wewa, is supposed to be built by him.

There are some interesting legends about Pandukhabaya. One legend is that his mother was very beautiful and therefore she was called "Ummada Chithra." Before Pandukhabaya was born, a Soothsayer had said that a son born to Chithra would kill all his uncles and become king.

So his uncles wanted to kill, first his mother, and then him. But the eldest brother Abaya, loved his little sister and prevented it.

Pandukhabaya had to spend his childhood in secrecy in Digamadulla, the land of his father, Deega Gamini. When he grew up he gathered an army and fought against his uncles, except Abaya.

There is a legend about his marriage too. King Pandukhabaya was marching towards the capital Anuradhapura with his army. He decided to examine the land ahead. So he set off alone. On the way

he met a beautiful maiden who was taking food to her father in the fields. She offered the stranger some food. She did not want to offer the stranger food on her father's plate. So she plucked a lotus leaf. When she touched the leaf it turned golden. From then onwards she was known as "Swarnapali". Pandukhabaya decided to marry her.

I think this will be enough for your purpose. We'll keep in touch. Good Luck.

*With Love,
Shakya*



Activity 3.16 Comprehension

Writing

01. Who wrote the letter ?
02. Why is the letter written about kings and legends ?
03. Who built the Abaya Wewa ?
04. Why did Pandukhabaya have to spend his childhood in secrecy ?
05. Find words from the passage similar in meaning to the following:
 1. an old story handed down from the past
 2. young unmarried woman
 3. fortune teller
 4. apart from
 5. give without being asked

Enrichment

Long Long Ago

This poem tells about certain things that we take for granted today. Read the poem and find out the things that we did not have long ago.

Did you ever stop to think
That long, long ago,
There were no motor cars
Passing in a row !

There were no trains
On long, shining tracks,
No mighty steamboats
With tall smoke tacks !

No mail man stopping
At every door,
No trucks with packages
Bought at the store !

Who were the bearers
Of burdens then ?
The sturdy backs
Of brave, strong men !

J Van Dolzen Pease